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First Annual South Side Robotics
Invitational Championship Announced

Fort Wayne, IN, May 4, 2006—the first annual South Side Robotics Invitational (SSRI) Championship was held in the main gym of South Side High School on May 20th. From 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM robotics teams from seven regional schools challenged each other for the title of “Champion.”

Not only will fans have the chance to root for their favorite teams, the Fort Wayne Police Department’s Bomb Squad also displayed their robot and equipment; South Side will allow some lucky visitors to drive its 130-pound demonstration robot. In addition an awards ceremony will be held for the teams.

Unlike “Battle” robots, the SSRI competition is “less damaging and more challenging.” It tests the mechanical, programming, and driving abilities of students as they attempt to win complex games in a short time. These eight to 15-pound robots have been custom designed from scratch for this game. Students built the initial robots in six weeks and continue to make modifications after each of the five monthly competitions. The Robots have as few as two motors and as many as eight; some robots use servos, pneumatics, and complex drive and arm systems.

The lead mentors in the SSRI schools include parents, Science and Technology teachers, Industrial Technology teachers, and even Social Studies and English teachers. In less than one year of existence, this affordable league has exposed students in many local high schools to the fun and challenge of robotics. With the kind generosity of Northrop-Grumman, the SSRI has will be able to award one student a full-tuition scholarship to IPFW next year.

Several high schools that were expected to attend the “Championship” event include: West Noble, Wayne, South Side, North Side, Harding, Dwenger, and Canterbury. The league is now accepting applications from other regional high schools for the 2006-2007 competition season.

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